

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Welch et al.  
Serial No.: 09/889,645  
Filed: January 24, 2002  
For: TREATING PROTEIN-CONTAINING LIQUIDS

Confirmation No. 8639  
Group Art Unit: 1648  
Examiner: Agnieszka Boesen

Date: September 18, 2006

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

Sir/Madam:

Applicants provide the present Amendment After Final to address the issues raised in the final Office Action dated July 5, 2006. Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned directly should there be any remaining rejections after review of this Amendment.

It is not believed that any fee(s), are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. In the event, however, that additional fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such an extension is also hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). Applicants authorize that any additional fees believed to be due in connection with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this document.